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NIGHTWING™
THE NEW 52!
TIM SEELEY
TOM KING
JAVIER GARRÓN
JORGE LUCAS
MIKEL JANIN
GUILLERMO ORTEGO
75
75 YEARS OF BATMAN
RATED T TEEN
DCCOMICS.COM
JUL 2014

SETTING SON
TIM SEELEY AND TOM KING WRITERS
JAVIER GARRÓN ART (PART ONE) JORGE LUCAS ART (PART TWO)
MIKEL JANIN PENCILS GUILLERMO ORTEGO INKS (PART THREE)
JEROMY COX COLORS CARLOS M. MANGUAL LETTERS
EDDY BARROWS, EBER FERREIRA AND MARCELO MAIOLO COVER
SAM VIVIANO MAD VARIANT COVER
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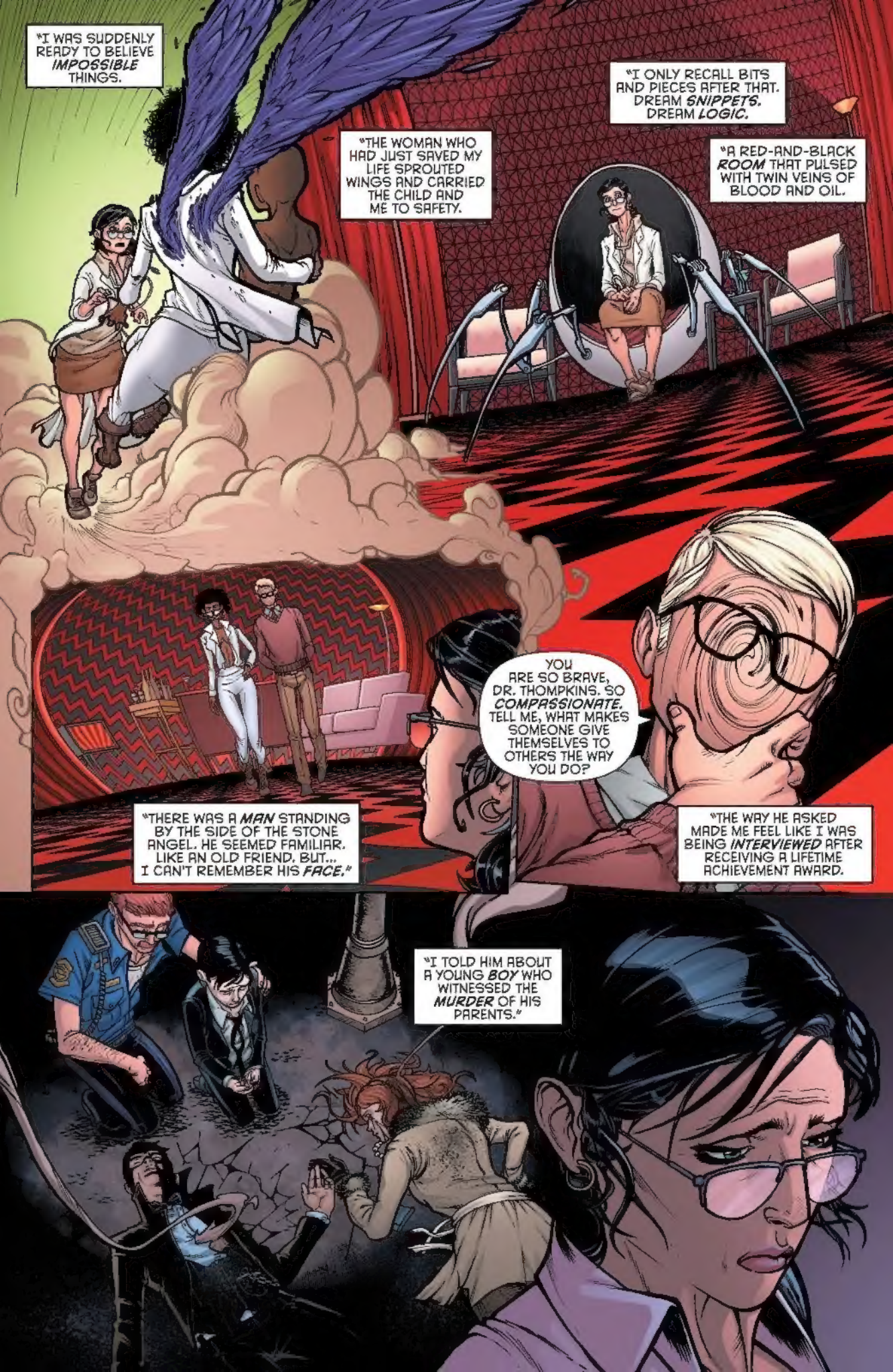
NIGHTWING CREATED BY MARV WOLFMAN AND GEORGE PEREZ
BATMAN CREATED BY BOB KANE
UN CHEVAL PÂLE
THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO.
TWO MONTHS AGO...
"I'D HEARD OF THEM BEFORE. THEY WERE MENTIONED IN THE MEDECINS DU MONDE UNIS GUIDEBOOK UNDER 'POSSIBLE THREATS,' BESIDE 'UNSTABLE LOCAL GOVERNMENTS' AND 'DIARRHEA.'
"DIE FAUST DER KAIN. THE FIST OF CAIN.
"A CULT FOLLOWING THE TEACHINGS OF FAMED DEPOPULATIONIST PHILOSOPHER CHRISTIAN FLEISCHER, MADE UP OF SERIAL KILLERS AND HIT MEN FROM ACROSS THE GLOBE."

"NO GUIDEBOOK COULD PREPARE ME FOR THE WAY THEY TORE THROUGH THAT REFUGEE CAMP...
"...OR THE HEAVY *STENCH* OF UNMENTIONABLE BODILY FLUIDS THAT CLUNG TO THEM LIKE A SECOND SKIN."
MÉDECINS DU MONDE UNIS
LESLIE! TAKE THE CHILD AND RUN!
BUT, JEAN--!
DR. THOMPKINS! *NOW!*
WE ARE A HUMANITARIAN-AID NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION, AND THIS IS A SPECIAL OPERATION TO ASSIST THE DISPLACED REFUGEES OF THE *DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO--*
Like frost on the wings of a dead angel...
SLSK
...licked by the wolf's blood-stained tongue.
GHK!

"I KNOW IT'S FAMILIAR TO YOU BY NOW. *TOO* FAMILIAR.
"BUT I'D NEVER EXPERIENCED IT BEFORE....
"...THAT PRIMAL FEELING THAT COMES WHEN YOU COME FACE TO FACE WITH ANOTHER HUMAN BEING WHO WANTS YOU ***DEAD.*** OR ***WORSE.***
"THAT PART OF YOU THAT DOESN'T EVEN KNOW ***HOW*** TO BE AFRAID. IT JUST KNOWS TO ***FIGHT*** AND ***KICK*** AND ***SCRATCH*** AND ***CLAW*** BECAUSE IT'S THAT OR ***OBLIVION.***
"AND I REALIZED IT MUST BE A FEELING THAT EVERY MEMBER OF *DIE FAUST* CRAVES SEEING ON THEIR VICTIM'S FACES..."
I CLAIM THIS ONE!
HCCH.
HKSS!
BAKOW
"SO MUCH SO THAT THEY'D ***KILL*** EACH OTHER FOR IT."

"I RAN THROUGH THAT JUNGLE, HOPING FOR IMPOSSIBLE THINGS... WISHING THAT I WOULD SPROUT *WINGS* AND CARRY THAT CHILD TO *SAFETY.*
"AND THEN, I RAN INTO *HER.*"
KONNICHIWA! I AM *VERY* HAPPY TO SEE YOU! I HOPE YOU ARE HAPPY TO SEE ME, TOO!
"SHE WAS LITTLE MORE THAN A CHILD HERSELF. BUT UNDER HER *SMILE* WAS SOMETHING COLD AND TERRIBLE, MADE ONLY MORE CHILLING BY WHAT SHE SAID..."
OH, HOW CUTE! BUT THE CHILD IS WORTH *NO POINTS!*
ONLY *YOU* ARE, DOCTOR!
"I'VE SEEN PATIENTS PASS. I'VE SEEN THE LIGHT GO OUT IN THEIR EYES."

"THIS WAS THE FIRST TIME I WAS *GLAD* TO SEE THE DARKNESS.
"AND THEN THE RELIEF PASSED, AS I REALIZED I COULD BE FACING *ANOTHER* MEMBER OF *DIE FAUST*, HUNGRY FOR 'POINTS', WILLING TO KILL THEIR 'FRIENDS' TO CLAIM MY LIFE.
"BUT THEN I SAW ANOTHER. SHE WAS CALM AND COOL LIKE A STATUE OF A *GRAVEYARD ANGEL*."
DO NOT BE *AFRAID*, DR. THOMPKINS.
"AND THE *LIGHT* IN HER EYES WAS BRIGHT AND BEAUTIFUL, LIKE A *RING OF STARS*."
I'M HERE FOR YOU.


"I WAS SUDDENLY READY TO BELIEVE *IMPOSSIBLE* THINGS.
"THE WOMAN WHO HAD JUST SAVED MY LIFE SPROUTED WINGS AND CARRIED THE CHILD AND ME TO SAFETY.
"I ONLY RECALL BITS AND PIECES AFTER THAT. DREAM *SNIPPETS.* DREAM *LOGIC.*
"A RED-AND-BLACK *ROOM* THAT PULSED WITH TWIN VEINS OF BLOOD AND OIL.
YOU ARE SO BRAVE, DR. THOMPKINS. SO *COMPASSIONATE.* TELL ME, WHAT MAKES SOMEONE GIVE THEMSELVES TO OTHERS THE WAY YOU DO?
"THERE WAS A *MAN* STANDING BY THE SIDE OF THE STONE ANGEL. HE SEEMED FAMILIAR. LIKE AN OLD FRIEND. BUT... I CAN'T REMEMBER HIS *FACE.*"
"THE WAY HE ASKED MADE ME FEEL LIKE I WAS BEING *INTERVIEWED* AFTER RECEIVING A LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD.
"I TOLD HIM ABOUT A YOUNG *BOY* WHO WITNESSED THE *MURDER* OF HIS PARENTS."

"I EXPLAINED TO HIM HOW MY FRIEND, *OFFICER JIM GORDON,* CALLED ME THAT NIGHT, ASKING ME TO COMFORT THE CHILD WHILE HE SEARCHED FOR THE KILLER.

GOTHAM PARAMEDIC

"AND HOW THE ETERNITY OF *PAIN* IN THAT BOY'S EYES WOULD *INSPIRE* ME TO DEDICATE MY LIFE TO WORKING WITH OTHER CHILDREN...

"...TRYING TO *STOP* THE SPREAD OF POVERTY AND CRIME BEFORE IT COULD CRUSH ANOTHER SOUL.

"THAT'S ALL I REMEMBER.

"I AWOKE IN A HOSPITAL IN NAIROBI WITH A DULL HEADACHE A FEW WEEKS LATER...

"...AND EVERY TIME I CLOSED MY EYES FOR THE NEXT SEVERAL DAYS, ALL I COULD SEE WAS A *SYMBOL*...

"...BURNED ONTO THE BACK OF MY EYELIDS.

"AN *EYE* NESTLED IN A *SPIDER'S WEB.*"

GOTHAM CHILD SERVICES OFFICES. *NOW...*

MAYBE IT WAS ALL A *DREAM.* OR...

...OR MAYBE I *TOLD* THEM. MAYBE I CONTINUED THE STORY, ABOUT HOW THAT LITTLE BOY WENT ON TO BECOME A *HERO.*

AND WHEN THE HERO WAS MORTALLY WOUNDED, HE CAME TO THE DOCTOR HE'D MET ON THE DARKEST NIGHT OF HIS LIFE.

GOTHAM CHILD SERVICES WANTS *YOU* TO VACCINATE

GPD

LOST CASES

FILES

OLD FILES

PENDING

GOD HELP ME, MAYBE I TOLD THEM.

MAYBE I TOLD THEM THAT I KNOW WHO *BATMAN* IS.

WAYNE MANOR.
A MONTH LATER.
WAS IT REALLY SO LONG AGO, MASTER RICHARD?
CLICK
IT DOESN'T SEEM THAT LONG AGO.
DEAR LORD.
OH, MY DEAR LORD.

WE'VE LOST TOO MANY, DAMIAN. DICK.
IT'S ENOUGH.
CLICK CLICK CLICK
MASTER BRUCE, MY APOLOGIES, BUT THERE APPEARS TO BE A MALFUNCTION IN THE LIFT. THE DOOR SIMPLY WILL NOT OPEN.
THE CAVE'S HAVING PROBLEMS, ALFRED. WE'VE LOST THE CAMERAS AS WELL.
I'M WORKING ON IT. GO BACK TO THE MANSION. IT'LL BE FINE SOON.
SIR, PARDON MY ASKING, BUT IS EVERYTHING ALL RIGHT?
WITH MASTER RICHARD'S... WITH THE BOY'S PASSING, WELL... ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, SIR?
...
HE WASN'T A BOY.
OF COURSE, MASTER BRUCE.
I'M FIXING IT, ALFRED. GO BACK TO THE MANSION.
OF COURSE, MASTER BRUCE.
DICK WAS NEVER A BOY.
OF COURSE, MASTER BRUCE. OF COURSE.

HOW MANY TIMES HAVE WE DONE THIS?
HOW MANY *RULES* HAVE I GIVEN YOU?
WHERE YOU FIGHT. *HOW* YOU FIGHT.
WE'VE DONE THIS SO MANY TIMES. WE'VE HAD SO MANY RULES.
WE NEED TO DO IT AGAIN. YOU AND ME.
I NEED TO SEE IF THEY *BROKE* YOU.
I NEED TO SEE IF YOU STILL HAVE THE *HEART* YOU ONCE HAD.
SO, ONE MORE TIME, *DICK.*
BUT NOW THERE'S ONLY *ONE* RULE...

THE BATCAVE. NOW
...YOU HAVE TO WIN.
JOKER
JOKER

YOU LET THE CRIME SYNDICATE CAPTURE YOU. YOU LET THEM TORTURE YOU.
YOU LET THEM GIVE YOUR SECRETS TO THE WORLD.
YOU WEREN'T THERE.
YOU LET THEM TURN YOU INTO A BOMB. YOU LET THEM KILL YOU.
BEFORE LUTHOR RESCUED YOU, YOU LET EVERYONE WATCH YOU DIE.*
I WAS TRYING TO SAVE PEOPLE.
*AS SEEN IN FOREVER EVIL #7! --K.K.
CRACK
I TRAINED YOU TO LIVE, AND I WATCHED YOU DIE!

AFTER THAT, I NEED TO KNOW IF YOU CAN COME BACK, IF YOU'RE *STRONG ENOUGH* FOR WHAT COMES *NEXT.*
BRUCE... WHAT *IS* THIS?
WHACK
I NEED TO KNOW IF YOU'RE STRONG ENOUGH TO MAKE THE SACR FICES WE W LL ALWAYS HAVE TO MAKE.
I HAVE A *MISSION* FOR YOU, DICK.
KRSHH
I NEED YOU TO DO SOMETH NG THAT WILL HURT YOUR FRIENDS.
YOUR *FAMILY.*
BRUCE, WHAT THE *HELL* IS GOING ON?!
EVERYONE TH NKS YOU'RE *DEAD.* I NEED YOU TO *STAY* DEAD.

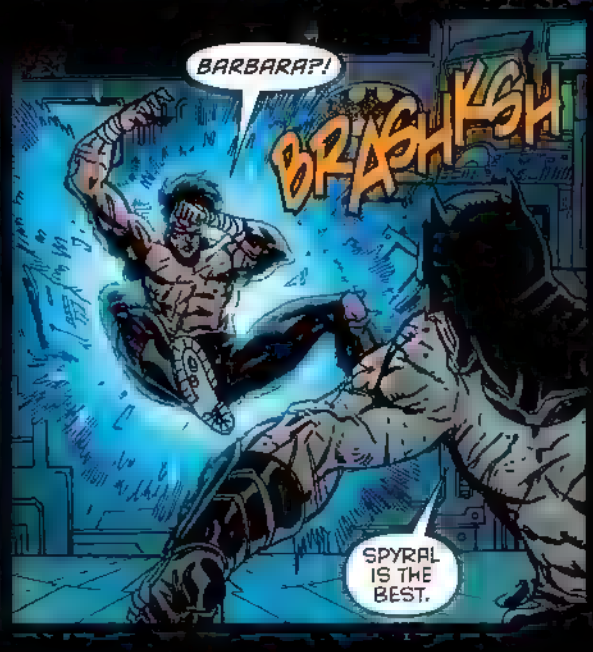
-NNGGG-
HUCKT
NO!
FIGHT LIKE YOU'RE ALIVE!
GOOD. FIGHT.
FIGHT LIKE A MAN WHO CAN'T BE CAPTURED.
WHO WON'T BE KILLED.
-ARGG-
CRACKSH

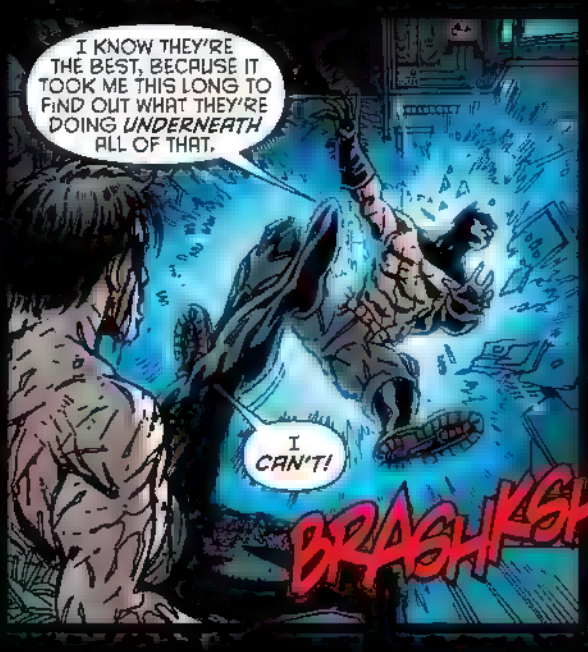
SPYRAL. THE ESPIONAGE GROUP.
NO. I WON'T DO IT. I CAN'T STAY DEAD. I CAN'T DO IT TO THEM!
CKK
4CK

THEY FIGHT THE USUAL EVIL AROUND THE WORLD.
BUT... TIM?

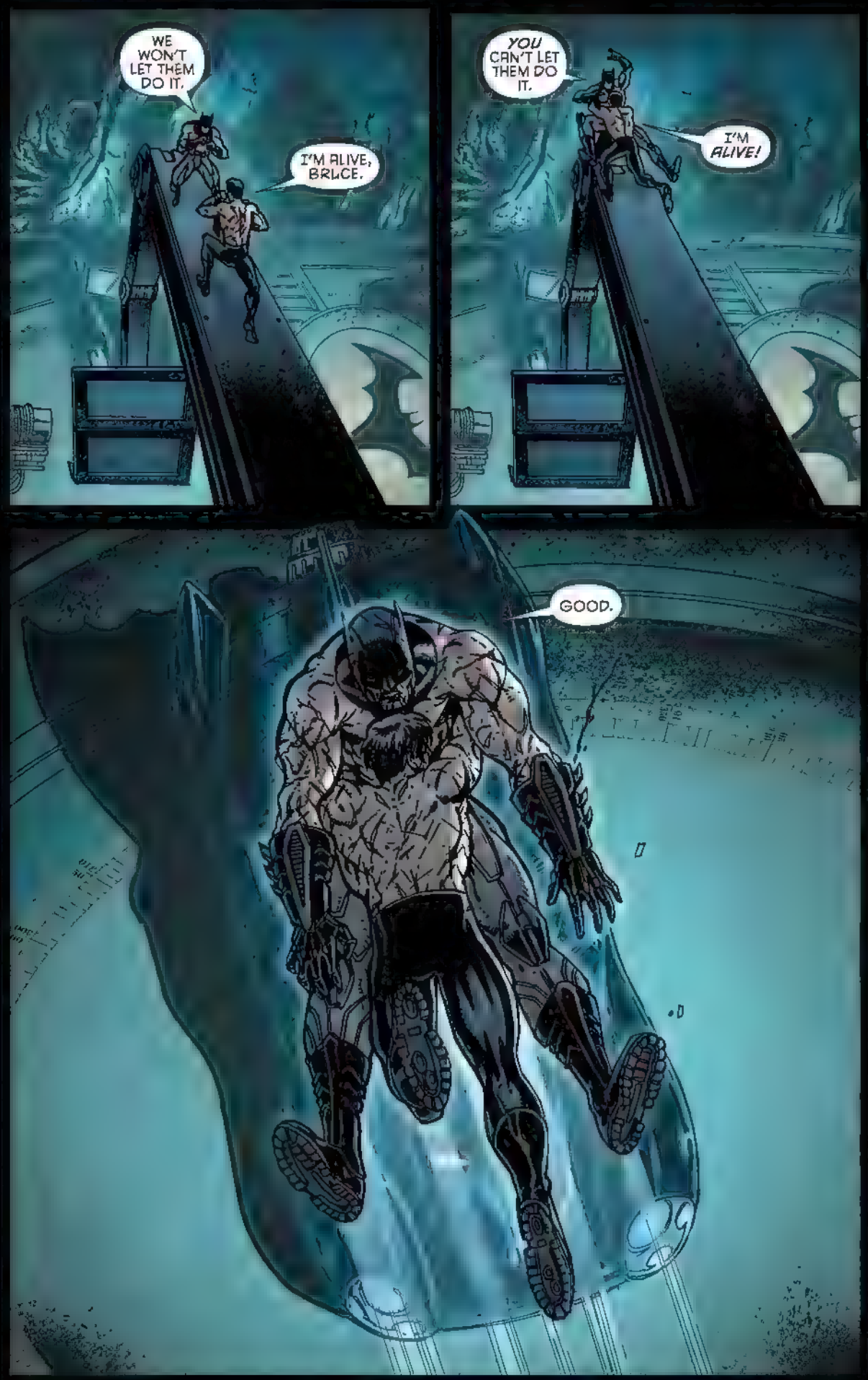
TERRORISTS. MURDERERS. THE COWARDLY AND THE SUPERST TIOUS.
JASON?
GREEEECKK

KRISNKHK
A LOT OF PEOPLE FIGHT THAT FIGHT THESE DAYS.
ALFRED?


BARBARA?!
BRASHKSH
SPYRAL IS THE BEST.


I KNOW THEY'RE THE BEST, BECAUSE IT TOOK ME THIS LONG TO FIND OUT WHAT THEY'RE DOING UNDERNEATH ALL OF THAT.
I CAN'T!
BRASHKSH

THEY'RE HUNTING MASKED HEROES.
THEY'RE MY FAMILY, BRUCE.
THEY WANT OUR IDENTITIES.
IF I'M DEAD, IF THEY THINK I'M DEAD...
SKRICT
OUR SECRETS.
WACKTSH
AFTER DAMIAN?
WHO WE HATE, WHO WE LOVE...
BREEK!
THEY'RE FAMILY! MY FAMILY!
THEY'RE LOOKING FOR WHO WE REALLY ARE, DICK.
I CAN'T DO IT TO THEM...
BRASHKSH
..I JUST CAN'T.
WHO WE HAVE TO PRETEND TO BE.


WE WON'T LET THEM DO IT.
I'M ALIVE, BRUCE.
YOU CAN'T LET THEM DO IT.
I'M ALIVE!
GOOD.

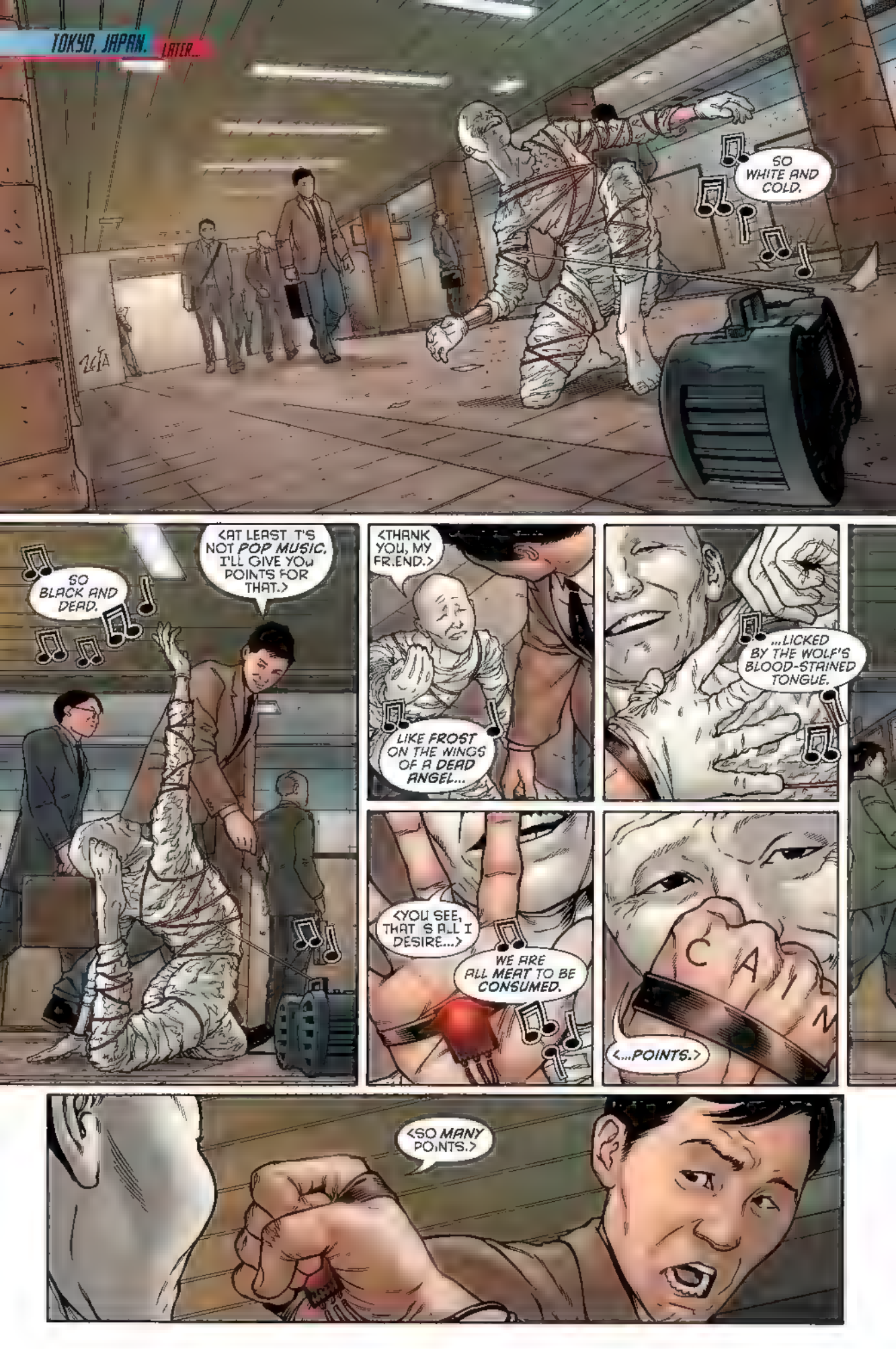
BLACKOUT
IF THEY KNOW OUR SECRETS, WE WON'T BE ABLE TO FIGHT.
HOW CAN YOU ASK ME TO DO THIS, BRUCE?
DO YOU KNOW HOW MANY PEOPLE WILL DIE IF WE CAN'T FIGHT?
HOW CAN YOU DO THIS TO ME?
WE NEED A MAN INSIDE. FINDING OUT WHAT SPYRAL KNOWS. WHAT THEY WANT TO KNOW.
WE NEED YOU.
CRUNK
-Ngnn-
THEY'LL COME FOR YOU NOW. THEY'LL WANT SOMEONE LIKE YOU. SOMEONE OFF THE GRID WHO KNOWS OUR SECRETS
IF YOU'RE NOT DEAD, THEY'LL COME FOR YOU.
A MASKED MAN WITHOUT A MASK.
AFTER EVERYTHING, HOW CAN YOU PUT THIS ON ME?

WHY DO WE FALL, DICK?
WE FALL SO WE CAN LEARN TO GET BACK UP.
NO.
NO, THAT'S NOT TRUE.
WE FALL BECAUSE SOMEONE *PUSHES* US.
WE GET UP TO *PUSH BACK.*

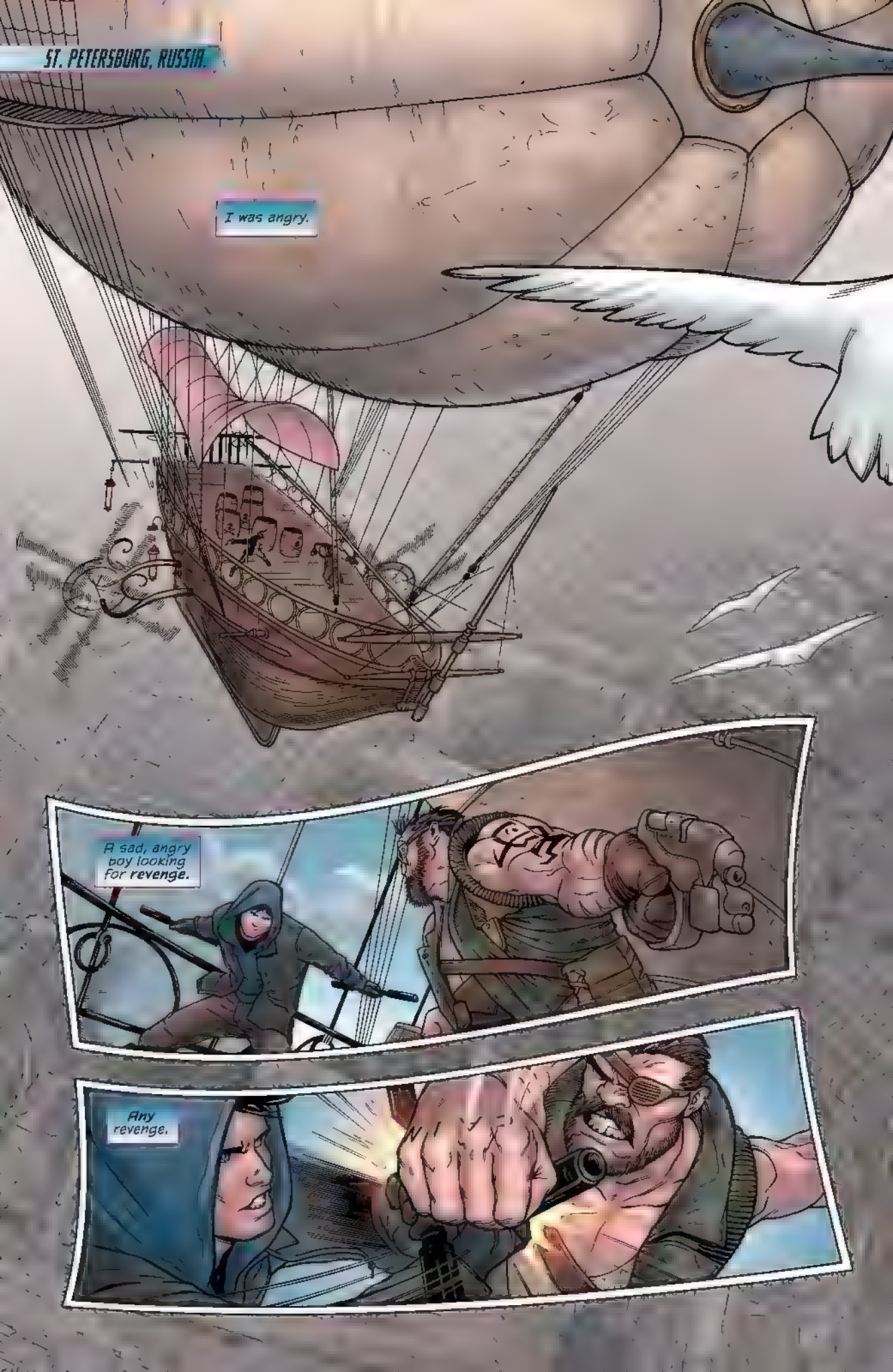
THINGS CAN'T BE THE SAME.
I KNOW THE OTHER HEROES. I KNOW THEM ALL.
I'D HAVE THEM DO IT, BUT THEY *CAN'T*. THEY'D FIGHT, BUT EVENTUALLY THEY'D *GIVE UP*, THEY'D GIVE IN.
AND SPYRAL WOULD USE THEM TO GET THE REST OF US.
AFTER THIS, BRUCE, AFTER ASKING THIS, BETWEEN US--IT CAN'T BE THE SAME AGAIN.
I KNOW. I'M HURTING YOU. MY FAMILY.
I'M MAKING THAT SACRIFICE. BECAUSE *I* DON'T GIVE UP. I DON'T GIVE IN.
BUT WHAT ABOUT YOU? ARE YOU *THEM?* OR ARE YOU *ME?*
AFTER THE CRIME SYNDICATE CAPTURED YOU, TORTURED YOU, *KILLED* YOU--TELL ME DICK, MY BOY, AFTER ALL OF THIS--
--WILL YOU *GIVE UP?* WILL YOU GIVE IN?

I'M NOT YOUR BOY.
CRACKK
...THAT'S ENOUGH.
NO...
...IT'S NEVER ENOUGH.
ONE RULE.

I WIN.
GOOD.
CLICK
DEAR LORD...
IT'S FINE, ALFRED, COME IN.
I DID WHAT NEEDED TO BE DONE.
I FIXED IT.

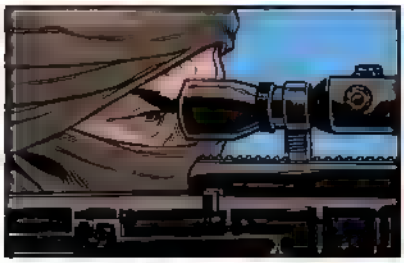

TOKYO, JAPAN. LATER...
SO WHITE AND COLD.
SO BLACK AND DEAD.
<AT LEAST T'S NOT POP MUSIC. I'LL GIVE YOu POINTS FOR THAT.>
<THANK YOU, MY FR.END.>
LIKE FROST ON THE WINGS OF A DEAD ANGEL...
...LICKED BY THE WOLF'S BLOOD-STAINED TONGUE.
<YOU SEE, THAT S A_L I DESIRE...>
WE ARE ALL MEAT TO BE CONSUMED.
CAIN
<...POINTS.>
<SO MANY POINTS.>

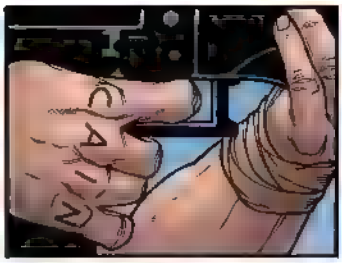
PWAK
GHK!
Who am I?
TINK
I've been a lot of things.
I was a son.
I was a performer. An acrobat. A member of Haly's Circus. Part of a family, a legacy.
EXIT
EXIT
Then came Tony Zucco. He murdered my parents, and I was alone.

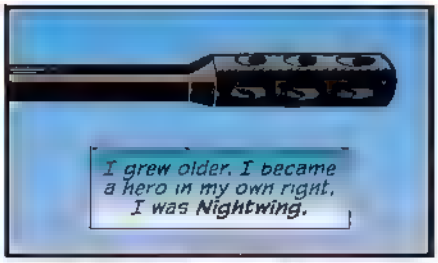

ST. PETERSBURG, RUSSIA.
I was angry.
A sad, angry boy looking for revenge.
Any revenge.

Then came Bruce Wayne. He found me, and I wasn't alone anymore.
I was his ward.
I was a son again.
He trained me. Focused me. And I was Robin. A colleague.
A hero.
Partner to the Batman, The Dark Knight of Gotham.

AMMAN, JORDAN.
I was part of a family again. Batgirl. Commissioner James Gordon. Alfred Pennyworth.






I grew older. I became a hero in my own right. I was Nightwing.

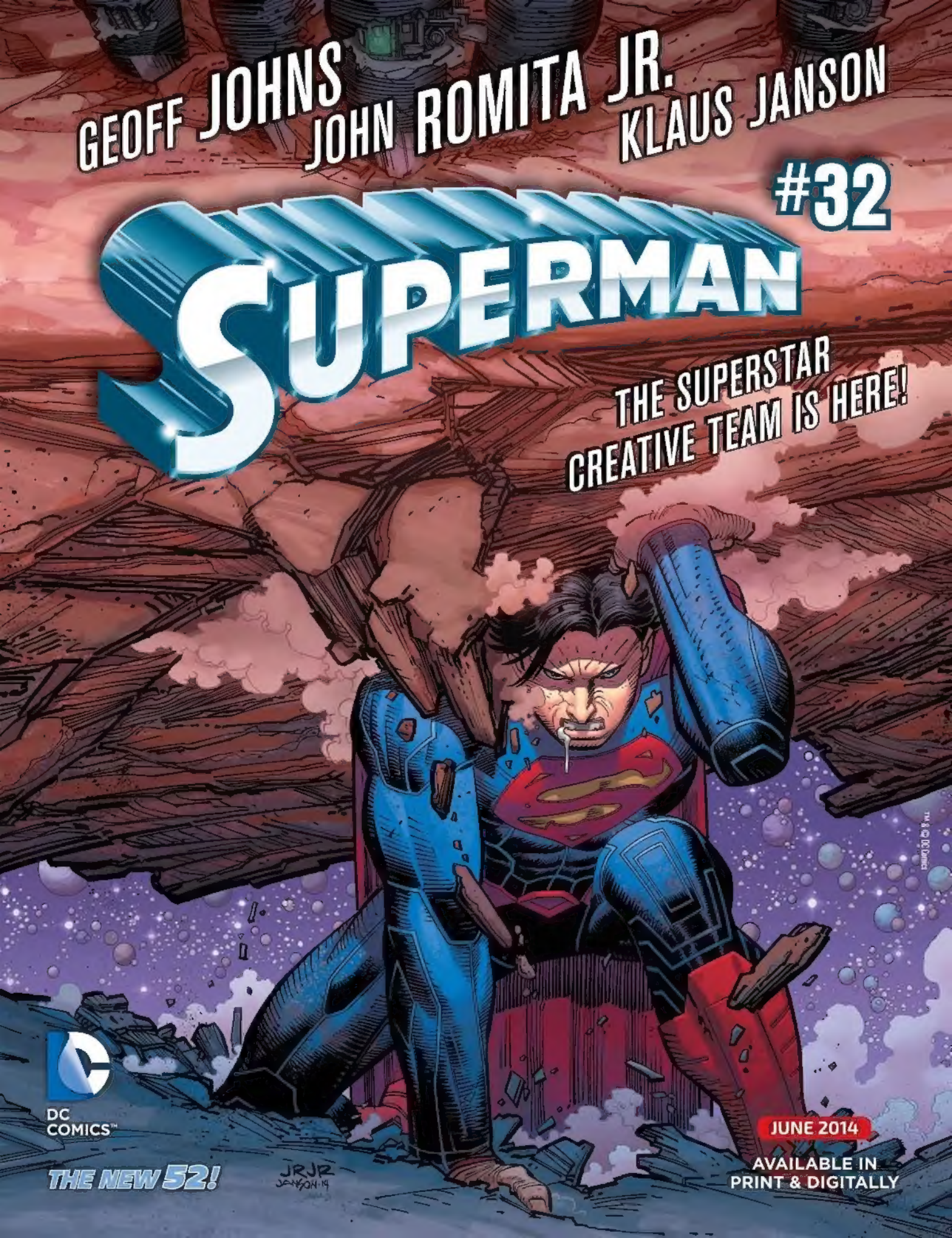
I was a teacher. A mentor. To Jason... Tim... Damian...

...and eventually, when I was needed, I was Batman.

I was part of a legacy again.

KAMPALA, UGANDA
Then came the Crime Syndicate.
They put a noose around my neck, and I was alone again.
I was tortured
I was put in front of cameras.
I was unmasked
I was a plaything
They strapped me to a machine. I was their weapon.
A bomb.
Lex Luthor stopped my heart
Killed me to save the world.
I was dead.
Or so it seemed.
In secret, I was saved
Who am I?
After all that I wanted to go back. I wanted to be who I'd been
A son
Part of a family... A legacy.
Robin
Nightwing
Batman
I wanted to go back
But I can't.

UH, THANKS.
MY PLEASURE.
Something terrible is coming.
YOU'RE COMING WITH ME, I ASSUME.
And I have to stop it.
WHY WOULD I DO THAT?
BECAUSE I KNOW WHAT YOU WERE. I KNOW WHO YOU ARE.
My enemy is in front of me and I'm alone.
AND I KNOW WHAT YOU WILL BE.
NOW COME, NIGHTWING...
Who am I?
...SPYRAL HAS A MISSION FOR YOU.
My name is Dick Grayson.
I'm who you need me to be.
TO BE CONTINUED IN GRAYSON #1!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THE NEW 52!
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